GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

2016 Southern Pine Beetle Prediction Trapping

Chris Barnes, Forest Health Specialist - cbarnes@gfc.state.ga.us

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) participates annually in the southern pine beetle (SPB) trapping program, which enables foresters to predict seasonal SPB population levels. This insect has the potential to cause more forest destruction in the southeastern states than all other forest pests combined, so anticipating potential damage is important. Insect traps are deployed in early spring by GFC foresters and are checked weekly for at least four weeks.

In the most recent survey, a total of **46** traps were placed statewide. All of the traps indicated low SPB populations/activity (See 2016 Southern Pine Beetle Predictions Map) http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/pine-bark-beetles/2016%20Southern%20Pine%20Beetle%20prediction.pdf. Based on the trapping data alone, GFC does not expect to see significant SPB activity in the state this year.

Special thanks to GFC foresters and technicians for assisting with this year's trapping program. Thanks also to the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Defense for providing trap data. Additional information on trapping and historical SPB survey data is posted at: http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/forest-health/pine-bark-beetles/

The GFC will be conducting an annual aerial survey for pine bark beetles June through September. Any activity will be marked, and the landowner will be notified. A summary report will be posted at: http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/forest-health/pine-bark-beetles/

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The SPB Hazard Rating Map for Georgia can be found at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/nidrm_spb.shtml.
This map was developed by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service based upon variables such as host species, stand density, site and soil characteristics. It gives an overview of risk for SPB attack and damage, and provides a good snapshot of where future problems may occur when stand, site, and weather variables trigger another outbreak.